

ALTON OCHSNER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

3503 PRYTANIA STREET

NEW ORLEANS

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
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College of Agriculture  
Department of Genetics  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

October 12, 1955

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and for remembering the subluxation problem. I thought I would have a chance to talk with you about it a little more in detail at the Enzyme Symposium in Detroit next month, but it seems I will have to attend a NRC Committee Meeting in Washington instead. This seems to be my year of Council meetings, committee meetings, business meetings and the like and I'll be glad when my various terms of office expire.

The Moltzen-Nielsen paper on Legg-Perthes' disease deals with a different disease (the primary lesion is at the head of the femur and not at the pelvic bone itself) which has been observed in a variety of dogs, but not in German Shepherds, and does not seem to be congenital.

Nothing conclusive in the veterinarian literature concerning the mode of inheritance of congenital hip dysplasia, except guesses not supported by evidence. Best paper on inheritance in humans is by Alexander Faber, Z. Orthop. 66, 142-166 (1937) "Erbbiologische Untersuchungen ueber die Anlage zur angeborenen Huelftverrenkung". Faber's paper shows rather conclusively that the mode of inheritance in humans is "dominant with irregular manifestation". Dogs may be different.

The pedigree collection now amounts to 90 pedigrees. They are, however, simply the pedigrees of subluxated dogs and tell nothing about brothers, sisters and their progeny. They will permit to see whether there are common ancestral backgrounds for all of them (carriers). Since sire or dam in one pedigree is sometimes related reasonably close to sire or dam in another pedigree, I hope to be able to construct from this collection the type of pedigree needed for elucidating the inheritance pattern. As soon as sufficient data of this sort have accumulated, I will send it to you for your advice and evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

*Otto Schales*  
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